INTERSTATE NAVIGATION COMPANY

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

ROBERT D. TOBIN

April 15, 2004

2	A.	Robert D. Tobin, 43 Broad Street, New London, CT 06320.
4	Q.	WHAT IS YOUR OCCUPATION?
5	A.	I am an attorney at law.
6		•
7	Q.	WHAT IS YOUR INTEREST IN THESE PROCEEDINGS?
8	A.	I represent certain members of the Wronowski, Hewett and Tyrseck families who are
9		shareholders of Interstate Navigation Company, Nelseco Navigation Company, Interstate
10		Nav. Co., and Waterfront Realty.
11		
12	Q.	WHAT DOES INTERSTATE NAVIGATION COMPANY DO?
13	A.	Interstate Navigation Company operates the ferry from Point Judith to Block Island.
14		
15	Q.	WHAT ARE YOUR CLIENTS' INTERESTS IN INTERSTATE NAVIGATION
16		COMPANY?
17	A.	They own a minority of voting stock in the company and a majority of the non-voting
18		stock in the company. Thus, they do not control the company, but own the majority
19		economic interest in it.
20		
21	Q.	WHO OWNS THE MAJORITY OF THE VOTING STOCK IN THE COMPANY?
22	A.	Susan Linda.
23		
24	Q.	WHAT ARE YOUR CLIENTS' INTERESTS IN NELSECO NAVIGATION CO.?
25	A.	They own no voting stock in the company and own a majority interest in the non-voting
26		stock and thereby own the majority economic interest in the company.
27		
28	Q.	WHO CONTROLS THE COMPANY?
29	A.	Susan Linda.
30		
31	Q.	WHAT ARE YOUR CLIENTS' INTERESTS IN WATERFRONT REALTY?

PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.

1

Q.

1	A.	They own no voting stock in the company, a majority interest in the non-voting stock and
2		a majority economic interest in the company.
3		
4	Q.	WHO CONTROLS THE COMPANY?
5	A.	Susan Linda.
6		
7	Q.	WHAT ARE YOUR CLIENTS' INTERESTS IN INTERSTATE NAV. CO.?
8	A.	My clients control the voting stock of Interstate Nav. Co. and the majority of the non-
9		voting stock and therefore own the majority economic interest in the company.
10		
11	Q.	WHO CONTROLS THE VOTING STOCK OF INTERSTATE NAV. CO.?
12	A.	John Peter Wronowski.
13		
14	Q.	ARE YOUR CLIENTS' INTERESTS THE SAME AS THOSE OF THE LINDA
15		FAMILY?
16	A.	No. Over the last several years, there have been a number of contentious issues between
17		the minority and majority shareholders, voting and non-voting members.
18		
19	Q.	WITH REGARD TO THE M/V ANNA C, WHAT IS THE POSITION OF YOUR
20		CLIENTS?
21	A.	The company has decided not to run the boat. The shareholders feel that the vessel
22		should be sold for fair market value.
23		
24	Q.	WHAT DO YOUR CLIENTS FEEL FAIR MARKET VALUE IS?
25	A.	My clients feel that the fair market value of the vessel is \$3.1 million.
26		
27	Q.	UPON WHAT DO YOUR CLIENTS BASE THAT OPINION?
28	A.	The opinion is based upon an appraisal of the vessel done for the company in February
29		2003 by a certified independent appraiser.
30		

2	Q.	TO BE?
3	A.	I believe it is between \$11 million and \$11.5 million.
4		
5	Q.	UPON WHAT DO YOU BASE THAT OPINION?
6	A.	I base it upon information received from Eastern Shipbuilding Group of Panama City,
7		Florida, the builder of the Anna C, who has indicated that a budget price to construct the
8		vessel today similar to the Anna C would be in the \$11 million to \$11.5 million range.
9		
10	Q.	HAVE YOUR CLIENTS ADVISED THE OTHER SHAREHOLDERS OF THEIR
1		POSITION?
12	A.	Absolutely. My clients will oppose any sale at less than fair market value and have
13		advised the other shareholders that they are prepared to bring an action against them if
14		the vessel is sold for anything less than \$3.1 million.
15		
16	Q.	WHAT IS YOUR CLIENTS' POSITION WITH REGARD TO THIS RATE SETTING
17		MATTER?
18	A.	While my clients are not parties to the rate setting matter, they feel that they are entitled
9		to a fair sales price for their vessel. They feel that the vessel could be sold on the open
20		market to others for a minimum of \$3.1 million and they should receive that in any sale
21		of the vessel. This is particularly true since the only significant asset of the company is
22		the vessel itself.
23		
24	Q.	DO YOU AGREE WITH THE POSITION OF OTHER WITNESSES THAT A FAIR
25		RENTAL VALUE SHOULD BE BASED UPON NET BOOK VALUE?
26	A.	We very much disagree with that position. Interstate Navigation Company could buy
27		another vessel at \$3.1 million and be allowed to include that cost in their rate structure.
28		They should not be allowed to purchase this vessel at net book value when it has a fair
29		market value in excess of \$3 million. The shareholders of Nelseco would be better off if
30		the vessel were sold to a third party.

Q. 1 WITH REGARD TO WATERFRONT REALTY, WHAT ARE YOUR CLIENTS' 2 INTERESTS IN THE PROCEEDING? 3 A. Again, we feel that any leasing arrangement between the company and Interstate 4 Navigation should be on a fair market value basis. Again, we have advised the other 5 shareholders that a lease at less than fair market value would violate their fiduciary duties 6 to my clients. 7 8 WITH REGARD TO INTERSTATE NAV., WHAT ARE YOUR CLIENTS' Q. 9 INTERESTS IN THE PROCEEDING? 10 A. My clients control the landing facility and have a lease with Interstate Navigation which 11 allows them to land their vessels at my clients' facility on Block Island. 12 13 Q. IN GENERAL, WHAT ARE THE TERMS OF THE LEASE? 14 Generally, the lease provides for a net rental of \$120,000 plus CPI, and it expires in Α. 15 September 2004. 16 17 Q. DO YOUR CLIENTS FEEL THAT THE RENTAL IS A FAIR RENTAL AND 18 PROVIDES A FAIR RETURN ON THE VALUE OF THE PROPERTY? 19 A. Absolutely not. We have had appraisals done of the property which indicate a value in 20 excess of \$3.7 million. We recently have received an appraisal from the Block Island 21 taxing authorities which indicates that the fair market value of the property is in excess of 22 \$6 million. 23 24 Q. HAVE YOUR CLIENTS AGREED TO Α LEASING ARRANGEMENT 25 **COMMENCING IN SEPTEMBER 2004?** 26 A. No. 27 28 Q. ARE YOUR CLIENTS WILLING TO CONSIDER A LONG TERM LEASING 29 ARRANGEMENT WITH INTERSTATE NAVIGATION?

1 A. Yes. We have been discussing a long term leasing arrangement with Interstate 2 Navigation, but have not been able to reach an agreement with regard to the terms and 3 conditions thereof.

4

- 5 Q. WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER A FAIR LEASING ARRANGEMENT?
- A. We would consider a lease which would provide a fair rate of return over the period of the lease based upon the fair market value of the property. We would consider a long term net net lease which would produce a rate of return between 7% and 10% on the value of the property for the shareholders.

10

- 11 Q. DO YOU CONSIDER THAT THERE IS A MUTUALITY OF INTEREST BETWEEN
 12 THE SHAREHOLDERS OF INTERSTATE NAV. AND INTERSTATE
 13 NAVIGATION?
- 14 A. No. Certain of the shareholders particularly in Interstate Navigation by reason of their 15 control of the company have interests which differ from the other shareholders. We have 16 reminded the other shareholders of their fiduciary duty and have told them that we will 17 take whatever action is necessary to protect the economic interest of our clients. My 18 clients are only looking to be certain that if the assets of Nelseco, Waterfront Realty, and 19 Interstate Nav. are sold or leased, that they be done on an arms length fair market basis 20 which produces the highest rate of return. We also feel that transactions which reflect 21 fair market value are fair to the rate payers as well as the shareholders.



EASTERN SHIPBUILDING GROUP

P.O. BOX 950 2200 NELSON ST. PANAMA CITY, FL 32402 PHONE (850) 763-1900 FAX (850) 763-7904 E-MAIL info@easternshipbuilding.com

₩O.7333 140.7333

April 19, 2004

Tobin, Carberry, O'Malley, Riley & Selinger, P.C. 43 Broad Street
New London, CT 06320

Sent Via Facsimile

Attn: Mr. Robert D. Tobin, Esq.,

Dear Mr. Tobin,

As you know, we built the Anna C, a 197' x 39' x 14' vehicle/passenger ferry for the Wronowski family back in 1985 and we are glad to hear that she is still giving them good service today.

Our budget price to construct a vessel today similar to the Anna C is in the \$11,000,000 to \$11,500,000 range.

I hope this letter is of some assistance to you. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

EASTERN SHIPBUILDING GROUP

Brian R. D'Isernia President

BRD/vfu